Employment Generation Through Herbicide Crops

3589. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has assessed the impact on employment generation with herbicide-tolerant crops which are being experimented in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what does his Ministry intend to do about such crops and their impact on rural employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) The impact of herbicide tolerant crops on rural employment, assessment of its impact on employment generation etc. do not come under the purview of Department of Biotechnology. Department of Biotechnology is involved in matters relating to research and development work involving biotechnology and biotech crops.

Assistance to Disabled Persons

3590. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than two crore people in the country are suffering from visual, hearing, speech and locomotive disabilities;

(b) the number of disabled persons provided assistance to purchase aids and appliances;

(c) the details of physical annual targets fixed under scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP); and

(d) whether the targets have been achieved and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) As per census 2001, there are 2.19 crore persons with disabilities in the country.

(b) to (d) Under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP Scheme), the target and the number of disabled persons who were provided assistance during 2007-08 & 2008-09 are as follows :-

Year	Target in lakhs	No. of beneficiaries (in lakhs)
2007-08	2.00	2.07
2008-09	2.00	2.80 (estimated)